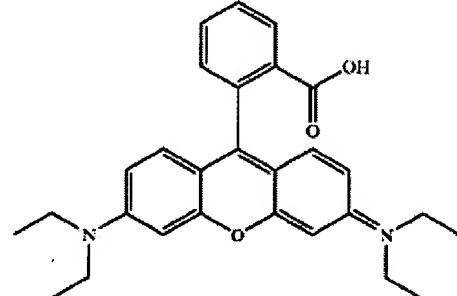
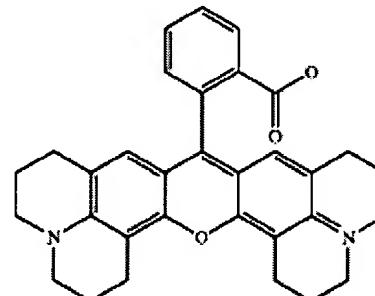
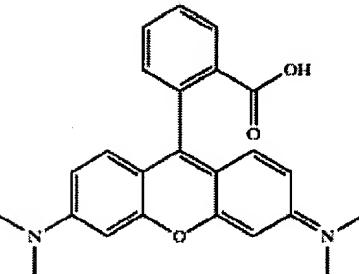


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS
PURSUANT TO REVISED 37 CFR § 1.121

The following is a listing of claims that replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of labeling oligonucleotides, comprising:
 - a) providing:
 - i) a solid support-bound oligonucleotide comprising an amino group;
 - ii) a bifunctional linker arm comprising a hydrocarbon chain, a protected secondary amine, and a hydroxyl group; and
 - iii) an *in situ* unactivated label selected from the group consisting of:
 - b) reacting said solid support-bound oligonucleotide with said bifunctional linker arm to produce a support-bound, linker-oligonucleotide;
 - c) reacting said *in situ* unactivated label to create an *in situ* activated label; and
 - d) reacting said support-bound linker-oligonucleotide with said activated label to produce a labeled support-bound protected oligonucleotide.

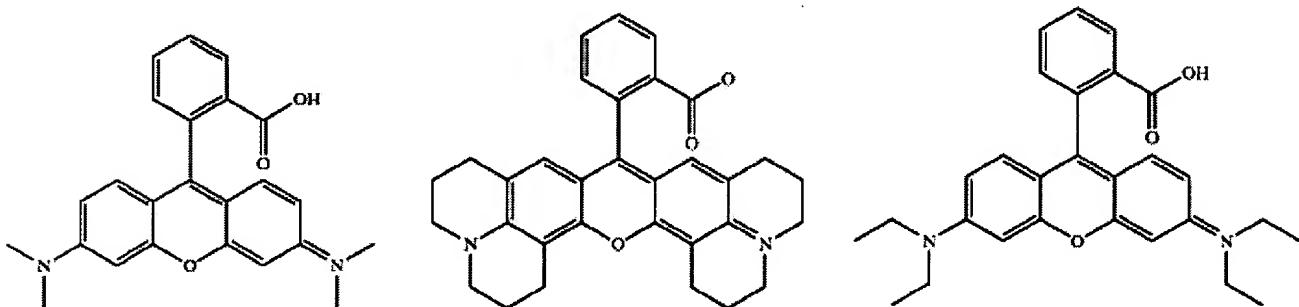
2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently amended) A method of labeling oligonucleotides, comprising:

a) providing:

- i) a solid support-bound oligonucleotide comprising an amino group;
- ii) a bifunctional linker arm comprising a hydrocarbon chain, a protected secondary amine, and a hydroxyl group; and
- iii) an *in situ* unactivated label selected from the group consisting of:



- b) reacting said solid support-bound oligonucleotide with said bifunctional linker arm to produce a support-bound, linker-oligonucleotide;
- c) reacting said *in situ* unactivated label to create an *in situ* activated label;
- d) deprotecting the amino group of said support-bound, protected linker-oligonucleotide to produce a support-bound deprotected linker-oligonucleotide, and;
- e) reacting said support-bound deprotected linker-oligonucleotide with said activated label to produce a labeled support-bound protected oligonucleotide.